

Law. She quickly became an irreplaceable part of my office, rising to the role of Deputy District Director. Courtney's responsibilities include day to day management of my district office and ensuring our local office staff stays in close touch with our Washington, D.C. staff, but her contributions have gone above and beyond those required of her position. She is always looking for ways to innovate. She led the transition of my district office to a digital-based, paperless operation, and she was the driving force behind practices that led to my office winning a Democracy Award for Innovation and Modernization in Constituent Service from the Congressional Management Foundation.

Courtney is known for her hospitality when welcoming people to Fort Worth. She has introduced countless visitors to the 12th District's charms, as well as its workout classes. She is always available to her colleagues and to constituents, many of whom she calls friends, whether it's to discuss a work issue or to try a new local restaurant. Courtney's work ethic shows even in her hobbies. She manages popular social media accounts for both her dog and herself. She is a fantastic cook and baker, a talent she balances with a dedication to fitness, including once completing 42 spin classes in 30 days. Courtney is a world traveler, has flown an airplane, and taken a ride in a race car going 180 miles per hour around the Texas Motor Speedway.

Courtney will be leaving my office to pursue a career in federal law enforcement. As much as we will miss her, we are proud of her commitment to public service and will continue to support her as she embarks on this new journey. On behalf of Texas' 12th Congressional District, I offer her congratulations and best wishes for the future.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF JOHN ANDERSON

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2021

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor the life of the late John K. Anderson, of Vernon, Connecticut, who passed away suddenly on June 16, 2021, at the age of 74. Known by family and close friends as Johnny, his military service, civic engagement, and devotion to his family and the greater Vernon community warrants the utmost praise and recognition.

Born to Merrill and Isabelle Anderson of Manchester, Connecticut, John began his early years fanning what would become a life dedicated to public service. After graduating from Manchester High School in 1965, John went on to serve in the United States Air Force as an Aircraft Maintenance Specialist and crew leader. He served overseas in Germany, Taiwan, Vietnam, and Greece before receiving an Honorable Discharge and returning home to Connecticut. With his return home and affinity for hard work, John hit the ground running and opened his own business. His business smarts and entrepreneurial spirit eventually led him into the automotive trade where he joined the team at Bolle's Motor Sales in Ellington, Connecticut. A natural people person—John excelled at the dealership

and fostered strong relationships with his co-workers and clients. It was this ability to communicate naturally with folks from all walks of life that led John to dedicate the latter half of his life toward building a positive impact on the lives of others within his local community.

From his leadership at the Water Pollution Control Authority to being one of Vernon's Registrar of Voters—John embarked on a path of serving in municipal government that set his legacy as a leader of the public in stone. During part of his tenure, I was the Vernon town attorney and had the opportunity to see up close his calm practical approach to solving problems. With his wealth of knowledge of the town and its voting operations, and dedication to public service, registrars from around the state would go to John with their questions. At a time when the integrity of our nation's elections has become subject to doubt and controversy, John's service in recent years was particularly valuable. No one questioned his performance or work—not for one moment.

John epitomized what it meant to be a kind and caring citizen in a small town and always sought opportunities to engage with his community. John was also known for his regular penmanship of editorials in the local news and his nuanced perspective on civic issues that impacted the community.

While we remember John as a leader in public service—we also remember him as a man who truly loved his family, friends, and neighbors—a love that drove him to enhance his community even further. John, like all of us, was someone who filled his life with passions and hobbies—two of which were baseball and golf. An avid Red Sox fan and great golfer, John used sports as another avenue to connect to his community and was a youth baseball coach and a volunteer at the annual Thanksgiving Day Manchester Road Race.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to represent constituents as honorable and impactful as John Anderson. While we all mourn his loss, we can at least find solace that his memory lives on through his surviving family: his children Carly, Lauren, Justin and grandchildren; sister Carol; brother Rick; and four grandchildren. His life will also continue to live on through countless others as the stoic example he has set has now been woven into the very fabric of the Vernon community. To that end, I find it fitting that we, the People's House, set his name and character into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and ask that the entire House join me in recognizing the life of John K. Anderson, never forgetting his impact on the greater Vernon community through his civic and military service.

EULOGY FOR SENATOR BIAGIO "BILLY" CIOTTO

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2021

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, on March 29, 2021, I attended the funeral service of Senator Biagio "Billy" Ciotto. Billy was a former Connecticut State Senator, Deputy DMV Commissioner, and served on my District office staff since 2007. One of the most unique human beings that I have ever had the honor of knowing and working with,

Billy epitomized what it meant to be a true public servant. I am eternally grateful for his friendship and his leadership. I wish to include in the RECORD my eulogy in honor of Billy's beloved wife Jeanne, and his dear children Maria, Julie, Anthony, John and Joey.

Jeanne, Maria, Julie, Anthony, John and Joey. On behalf of Leslie, myself, and the entire Congressional staff—our hearts go out to you. The outpouring of people and tributes keep coming in. Yet we know nothing or no one will ever be able to fully convey the depth of the loss you are experiencing.

As Billy would often say, "no one knows the sacrifice a family endures when they support and stand with an elected official." So, let us first and foremost acknowledge your sacrifice and devotion that made it possible for all of us to have benefited from Billy's service. His humanity, his humility, and congeniality. We thank you for making it all possible.

Billy was unique, one of a kind, and something that is constant throughout his service—whether at the Motor Vehicle Department, the State Senate, or Congressional Office, he greeted people and answered his call to public service. His humility, and his humanity ever-present as he answered in that unique and distinct cigar voice, "how may I help you?"

"How may I help you?" should be part of every teaching and training course for public officials and staff. For Billy, it came naturally. For him it was effortless and genuine, heartfelt, and sincere. It was who he is!!

Now I'm not saying he was angelic by any stretch. He had his faults and an evil side to him. He was an ardent devotee and follower of an evil empire: He was a Yankee fan. Especially in 2007, 2013, and 2018. He did celebrate in 2009 but through all of 2019 when the Sox were cellar dwellers, he would come in the office and announce with a cigar hanging from the corner of his mouth "does anyone know the standings in the American League East, and do the Red Sox still play baseball?"

He was the envy of UCONN fans and politicians. He got more TV time sitting right behind the bench of the Men's and Women's basketball teams at every home game. When asked how he got those seats, he said "it was a blessing from St. Paul" . . . yeah, St. Paul Polo.

And though devoutly religious, and apostolic, and Catholic, he could be critical of a long winded homily in church. I remember being at St. Patrick-St. Anthony with the family and sitting directly in front of him. The priest was going on and on with the phrase "and may Jesus light a fire in your heart." It was rather extensive, and I looked down and all of a sudden saw my children laughing. I immediately gave them the hairy eyeball and scornful look. After church when we were in the car, I said "how many times have I told you no fooling around in church?" They said, "it wasn't us, it was Mr. Ciotto." To which I said, "Don't blame Mr. Ciotto." They said, "but Dad, he made fun of the priest's comments" and I said "Mr. Ciotto? I don't believe it." They said, "well you know how the priest was saying may Jesus light a fire under your heart?" and I said "yes." Well Mr. Ciotto muttered, "may Jesus light a fire under your ass."

Well Billy was also wise and was willing to impart his wisdom on the youthful members of our staff. Then Chief of Staff John Rossi was thirty and Billy was a youthful seventy-nine. Rossi was explaining how he told his wife about the important and influential people he was meeting with day in and day out, and the restaurants and clubs he was lunch and dinner at. Billy who listened intently looked at him and said, "young man